

# O B G Y N



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER  
المركز الطبي في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

Issue N° 09 Summer Newsletter 2013

Our lives are dedicated to yours



## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



The departmental graduation party was held on June 6th at Le Maillon Restaurant in Ashrafieh. As anticipated, this event was attended by medical and paramedical staff at the Department of OB/GYN and a number of guests. The evening proved to be untraditional on all levels, kicking off with marvelous performances by Alain Chalhoub, PGY III and Elie Ramleh, a Med IV who played on his guitar. In-between, the audience enjoyed a video ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALf2F0TX\\_kl&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALf2F0TX_kl&feature=youtu.be)) prepared in honor of the occasion, to celebrate the three graduating residents: Drs. Rayane Rahal, Bassem Skaff, and Ahmad Fakih. The audience then travelled east to enjoy a selection of oriental tunes by Mr. Bassam Badour and his famous band. This was followed by a humorous short movie and a breathtaking show performed by two professional dancers. The invitees then travelled back in time to enjoy wonderful Arabic oldies recited by guest artists. In this refined setting, the graduating residents received their gifts from Drs. Nassar and Ghulmiyyah. Also, MED III students Naya El Hage, Karma Salem and Rachelle El Helou (in absentia) received prizes for best student presentations. At midnight, the audience took over the dancefloor and partied to the hottest songs of the season. June 6th at Le Maillon was indeed, a night to remember.

This season marks the graduation of our residents. After four long years, they finally bid us farewell. This momentous occasion was recently celebrated in what many referred to as a "a night to remember". Browsing through this issue, you'll see why. Also highlighted are faculty promotion news, a prize granted to a medical student for a Gynecology-related research project, in addition to a variety of academic news and information we hope you will find useful.

Sincerely,  
**Anwar Nassar, MD**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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## MEDICAL STUDENT AWARDED A GRANT

Mohammed Dany, a second year medical student at AUB (now a Med III), was awarded the Issam Fares Institute student grant for the project proposal entitled: "Human Papilloma Virus vaccine: Assessing knowledge, attitudes, and readiness of college female students for future policy implications". The project's primary investigator is Dr. Anwar Nassar. The study aims to examine the knowledge, attitudes, and readiness of female college students at AUB with regards to HPV infection and vaccination. Considering the rising incidences of HPV amongst the female population and the attenuated average age group of sexually active youthful persons in our region, this study could shed light on the overall willingness of female college girls in a developing country attending an internationally acclaimed academic institution, to support the administration of HPV vaccination.

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## WELCOME DR. FAYSAL EL KAK

Dr. El Kak joined the Department of OB/GYN as a Clinical Associate effective April 1, 2013. Dr. El Kak is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at AUB. He will work closely with the Interim Chairman to ensure the development of integrated clinical services of the Women's Health Center; ensure coordination and implementation of outreach and community-directed activities (that relate to public awareness and health promotion and maintenance) including: educational material, national stakeholders' seminars, media collaboration, networking, and public meetings. In addition, he will help the establishment of a women's health registry that will be available to researchers, and coordinate and collaborate with FHS on tasks related to education, research, and public health issues. Please join us in welcoming Dr. El Kak to our Department.

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Bazi T, Kabakian-Khasholian T, Ezzeddine D, Ayoub H. Validation of an Arabic version of the global Pelvic Floor Bother Questionnaire. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 2013 May;121(2):166-9.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

- Three faculty members at the Department of OB/GYN got promoted this year. Dr. Johnny Awwad was promoted to Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Drs. Tony Bazi and Ghina Ghazeeri to Associate Professors of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology. *Congratulations.*



## MEET THE ALUMNI

\* Dr. Mounira Habli finished her OB/GYN residency at AUBMC in 2002, then repeated it at Dartmouth Medical Center. She then did a Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship followed by a fellowship in Fetal Surgery at the University of Cincinnati where she also completed a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Translational research. Dr. Habli is the associate director of fetal fellowship and an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC). She is also the associate Director of Perinatal Clinical Research at Good Samaritan Hospital, a member of several international societies and the recipient of many awards as the NIH best young investigator, SMFM excellence in research, and Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Award. Dr. Habli has authored several research publications and co-authored several books. Dr. Habli is married to Nader Allan. She enjoys outdoor activities and traveling around the world.

\* Dr. Antoun Al Khabbaz graduated with distinction for BS in Chemistry (1991) and received an MD degree (1995) from AUB. He then completed his OB/GYN residency at AUBMC in 1999 and from SUNY at Stony Brook in 2002. Dr. Khabbaz joined Crusader Community Health Clinics in Rockford Illinois in 2006. He chaired the OB/GYN services from 2007 to 2012, and resumed this responsibility in May 2013. He is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Chicago and an active member of the Quality and Assurance Committee at the Swedish American Hospital. He is the recipient of the Golden Scalpel Award for best surgical skills in 2002. Dr. Khabbaz is married to Launa Middeler and was blessed with a set of twins (Joseph and Alina) born in November 2011. He is expecting a baby boy in September 2013. His favorite hobby is fishing but changing diapers has taken over recently. He also loves to cook.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

- Dr. Joseph Nassif, the secretary general of the Middle East Society of Gynecological Endoscopy (MESGE), was the co-chair of the scientific program of the 1st MESGE annual meeting held in Antalya – Turkey on April 24-28, 2013. He was the chairman of the Young Endoscopist platform session and the live surgery session. He also presented three talks.
- On April 26, 2013, Dr. Labib Ghulmiyyah was the guest speaker at the Medical Laboratory Professionals Week at AUBMC and gave a lecture about sexual health awareness. On May 14th, Dr. Ghulmiyyah once again gave a lecture for International College's intermediate students about puberty and sexual development. On May 22nd, he gave a series of lectures as part of a course given to UNRWA physicians entitled "Updates in Cardiology" in collaboration with the CME office at AUB. On June 14, 2013, he was the honored guest speaker at the Sharps Safety Awareness Day organized by AUBMC.
- Dr. Johnny Awwad was invited as a guest speaker by the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) for its Annual July 2013 Meeting in London; by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) for their Conjoint Annual October 2013 Meeting in Boston; and by the cART2013 Scientific October 2013 Meeting in Mumbai. Dr. Awwad has also been assigned by the ESHRE to organize and chair a one-day pre-Congress course during its Annual Scientific Meeting in Berlin 2014. In addition, he has been offered the opportunity to join the International Advisory Editorial Board of the "Journal of Minimal Stimulation IVF" (IVF lite), an honorary appointment for an initial term of five years.
- Dr. Fadi Mirza gave several talks in Chtaura, Clemenceau Medical Center and at the Hilton Metropolitan Hotel in March and April, 2013. He also gave a talk on "Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Women's Health" in Bekaa as part of the Ministry of Public Health's campaign in collaboration with AUBMC's MS Center and the National Society of MS, on April 13th. On May 28th, Dr. Mirza was an invited speaker by the Jordanian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- Drs. Abdallah Adra and Fadi Mirza were invited speakers at the 22nd annual meeting of the Saudi Obstetrics and Gynecology Society that was held on April 9-11, 2013 in Jeddah, KSA.



Courtesy of Dr. Antoine Abu-Musa.

## NURSES RECOGNITION: A NEW PRIZE THIS YEAR

For the second year, the Department of OB/GYN recognized the "Best Registered Nurse." This year's awardee was Mrs. Carla Jurdak, the Clinical Nurse Coordinator from the delivery suite. Carla was described by the physicians as highly professional, dependable and devoted to patients.

In addition, this year the department introduced an "Award for OB/GYN Auxiliary" in recognition of the best Auxiliary Nurse. Mrs. Zeinab Shreif from the Women's Health Center was the winner because she "always collaborates with other auxiliaries with a smile and is always ready to assist patients." Congratulations Carla and Zeinab.



## NATIONAL MATERNAL MORTALITY MEETING

On April 14, 2013, the Women's Health Center (WHC) at AUBMC and the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LSOG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health held the "National Maternal Mortality Meeting" at Issam Fares Auditorium, which was attended by 130 colleagues. This event was the first in a series of clinical initiatives to be organized by the WHC. Dr. Anwar Nassar welcomed the crowd and stressed on the leading role of the Department of OB/GYN and the WHC in improving the quality of care in maternal and childbirth health. The speakers Drs. Adnan Mroueh, Fayez Bitar, Walid Ammar, Faysal Kak and Muhieddine Seoud reflected on the global and national burden of maternal mortality. There was a consensus on several recommendations that will be followed up by the WHC and the LSOG with the Ministry of Public Health and all relevant parties.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT DR. ANTOINE ABU-MUSA



**Q: When did you join the department of OB/GYN?**

A: June 1993, after returning from Japan.

**Q: What is your title?**

A: Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Q: What are your main duties?**

A: In addition to my clinical duties, I teach medical students and residents, and supervise the infertility OPD clinic.

**Q: Prior to joining this department, what were you doing?**

A: I was doing what nobody else had ever done. I was preparing a PhD in Japan. I consider myself lucky having had the chance to live in Japan for six years, an experience that goes beyond any description.

**Q: If you were not doing this job, what would have you chosen to do?**

A: An artist; either a musician or a photographer.

**Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?**

A: Helping desperate couples form a family.

**Q: What do you find most challenging about your job?**

A: Keeping patients satisfied.

**Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go and why?**

A: To Jerusalem to visit the burial of Jesus Christ, and to the stratosphere where Felix Baumgartner jumped.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing during your free time?**

A: Photography. I've already had 3 exhibitions in one year and I'm planning for a 4th in the summer. I also enjoy hiking - discovering incredible trails and places.

**Q: What is something that most people don't know about you?**

A: I am a very religious person.

**Q: What is your point of weakness?**

A: I'm unable to say no.

**Q: Who is your favorite artist?**

A: Ansel Adams, the master of photography, and Mozart, the master of Classics.

**Q: What song are you listening to most lately?**

A: I am listening to Johann Baptist Vanhal symphonies, and 'Just Give Me A Reason' by Pink.

**Q: What is the movie or book you have lately enjoyed watching or reading?**

A: 'Outliers' by Malcolm Gladwell is a stunning book. 'The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari' by Robin Sharma is inspiring. I am also a fan of James Bond and Batman movies!

## Did you know?

- Cats and dogs can sense if their owner is pregnant, treating her with more attention than usual and becoming more protective, often licking and nuzzling the growing belly.
- Babies start dreaming even before they're born.
- Many hospitals make money by selling the umbilical cords cut from women who give birth. They are reused in vein transplant surgery.
- The length of the finger indicates how fast the nail grows. The nail of the middle finger grows faster than others.
- A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
- Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin!
- Humans have the ability to differentiate about 10,000 odors.
- The human liver performs 500 different functions.
- Unlike humans, the menstrual cycles of cats and dogs occurs only twice yearly, lasting between 12 to 21 days each.
- Most newborns will lose all the hair they are born within the first three or four months of life.
- Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

### Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

American University of Beirut  
Medical Center  
Office C-827, Phase I

### Newsletter Editor

Anwar Nassar, MD  
To submit news,  
comments or queries:  
Email: rb01@aub.edu.lb  
Phone: 01-340460 ext. 5610

### Departmental Leadership Interim Chairperson

Anwar Nassar, MD

### Vice-Chair

Muhieddine Seoud, MD

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